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REVIEWS.

The United States and the States Under the Constitution. Second edition. By C. Stuart Patterson, with notes and references by Robert P. Reeder. T. & G. W. Johnson, Philadelphia, 1904. Sheep, pages 347.

This work, on the whole, represents that type of the legal text-book, necessarily evolved out of the multiplication of decisions and the closer definition and firmer establishment of principles, which, omitting the expression of individual opinion and critical examination in the light of jurisprudence and comparative law, aims at a clear and concise codification of that which the courts have decreed to be law. That the pursuit of such a purpose alone enables the author to comprise the full content of his subject in a brief work is obvious when we consider that he must treat of the whole of that body of law which deals with regulation of interstate commerce, the protection of contract obligations against state legislation, the mutual relationship between the federal and the state judiciaries, and many kindred topics. Where he has departed from it, as in his discussion of the elements that are involved in estimating the reasonableness of traffic rates, of the scope and advisability of anti-trust legislation, of the correctness of the decisions of the Supreme Court as to the status of our island possessions, we cannot feel that he has added to the value of his work. However, in the fulness of its references, its inclusion of the latest decisions, even to *Dorr v. U. S.*, 195 U. S. 138, its clear but brief statements, it will form a valuable adjunct to the lawyer's library, whether he desires a means of reviewing the principles of constitutional law or an index to the reports.

W. M. M.

Rood on Wills and Gifts Causa Mortis. By John R. Rood. Callaghan & Co., Chicago, 1904. Sheep, pages 635.

The subject of wills involves so many fine technicalities that the student, no matter how close his application, finds it almost impossible to keep his mind even reasonably clear while studying a text-book. The tendency of authors too often is to say: "In this case . . . the will was held good," or "Under such and such conditions the will was held invalid," leaving a hazy "every-man-his-own-lawyer" knowledge in the mind of the reader.

Mr. Rood's work has a certain literary and logical tone, which is, it seems to us, invaluable in this particular subject.